

**RESTORATION INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM
FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES (FUDS)
PROJECT FACT SHEET
ORIGINAL DATE: 8 OCTOBER 1997
TAG REVIEW DATE: 20 MAY 1998**

1. SITE NAME: Pinecastle Jeep Range

SITE NUMBER: I04FL040500

LOCATION:

City: Orlando
County: Orange
State: Florida

PROJECT NUMBER: I04FL040501

CATEGORY: OE

INPR RAC: 3

ASR RAC: 3

TAG RAC: 3

2. POC's:

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3. SITE DESCRIPTION: Pinecastle Jeep Range occupied approximately 12,483 acres of leased land in Orange County, east of Orlando, Florida. The range was located in Township 23S, Range 31E, Sections 8, 10, 11, and 14 through 34 and in Township 24S, Range 31E, Sections 2 and 3.

4. SITE HISTORY:

a. During 1943, the U.S. Government leased land in Orange County, Florida, for use as the Pinecastle Jeep Range. The site was also known as the Tactical Demonstration Range, the Orlando Range, Pinecastle Range, Pinecastle Bombing Range and the Pinecastle Chemical Demonstration Range. The range was an off-post site of Pinecastle Army Air Field (AAF). Pinecastle AAF used the range as a gunnery and demonstration range. The Army Air Forces Tactical Center at Orlando Army Air Base (AAB), used the site for testing and troop instruction in methods of tactical bombing and strafing. The bases that used the Pinecastle Jeep Range also had access to the nearby Lake Bryant (Ocala) Bombing and Gunnery Range. The Lake Bryant range received heavy high explosive bomb and rocket use during World War II.

b. The Orlando AAB Demonstration Section conducted chemical and ordnance demonstrations at the former Pinecastle Jeep Range for students stationed at Orlando AAB. The demonstrations encompassed all phases of chemical attack and defense as well as usage of ordnance related equipment. Smoke, water sprays, and DDT had been used on this range. There was no information found that any live agents were dispersed there. Orlando Army Air Base had access to the nearby Withlacoochee Air Field site, (DERP-FUDS # I04FL0078), which was the live agent test area in the region.. The demonstrations at the former Pinecastle Jeep Range provided the visual illustration of equipment and tactics taught in the classroom. The students observed the demonstrations from a protected ground shelter at the Pinecastle Range.

c. In July 1945 a General Order changed the name of the 903d AAF Base Unit (PAAF) to the 621st AAF Base Unit. After this reorganization Demonstration Air Force and project works remained at Pinecastle Army Air Field and most Radar Projects were sent to Eglin Field.

d. The Army Air Forces reported the Pinecastle Jeep Range surplus to its needs on 2 December 1946 and by 5 December 1947, the War Department terminated the lease on the 12,483 acre range.

e. Although numerous historical documents were discovered which described activities on the range, there were no historical maps found. Interpretation of the aerial photography from 1945 revealed the construction of three separate small arms firing ranges in the southwestern corner of this range and the small arms jeep range along the western boundary. Additionally, although no formal bomb target or strafing berms were constructed, it does appear that various areas were probably used for these purposes. The historical air photos depict areas of considerable ground disturbance and some possible craters. There

are also ground areas graded in the typical configuration of an air-to-ground strafing area. The locations of these features are shown on Plate M-1.

f. Potential existence for the following ordnance items have been identified through review of historical documents, air photo interpretation, and a personal site visit by the ASR inspection team.

Bomb, General Purpose
Bomb, M38A2, Practice
Spotting Charges for M38A2 Practice Bomb
Rocket, 5-Inch, HVAR
Small Arms, General
Bomb, Incendiary, AN-M76
Cluster, Aimable Incendiary Bomb, M21
Cluster, Incendiary Bomb, M7
Rocket, 11.75-Inch

g. Aerial photography indicates that several areas were used on this property. The firing ranges and associated berms were located along the west side of the tract. The locations of other activities areas were surmised from air photo interpretation. Most of these areas of probable use are also located in the western portion of the range. No historical maps were found to indicate where the ranges were to be constructed. All features are identified on Plate M-1 of this report.

h. The research team did not find a certificate of clearance during the archives research; however, a letter from the Headquarters, Fourteenth Air Forces states half of the Pinecastle Jeep Range had been dedudded. The Air Force memorandum from 1948 indicates that half of the range was cleared of ordnance but does not mention which half. The remaining portion was not cleared because it was too wet. Review of topographic maps of the site reveals that most of the swamp-type areas are located in the eastern portion of the range. Historical air photos from immediately after the time of use showed that most of the disturbed ground areas and possible strafing ranges were located in the western part of the range.

5. PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Entire Site:	Size, Acres:	Approximately 12,483
	Former Use:	Demonstration/Practice Bombing & Gunnery Range
	Present Use:	Residential, Landfill, Highway/Expressway and Undeveloped Pastureland
	Future Use:	Same as above

Ordnance Presence: Potential
Type: Practice Bombs, 5-inch
HVAR Rockets, M7 & M21
Cluster Bombs, HE Bombs
& Small Arms

6. CURRENT STATUS: The Archives Search Report (ASR) for Pinecastle Jeep Range was completed by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District, in September 1997.

7. STRATEGY: Entire Site: EE/CA

8. ISSUES AND CONCERNS:

a. The Huntsville Center Technical Advisory Group reviewed this ASR on 20 May 1998 and determined that an EE/CA will be performed on this entire FUDS. The main focus of any removal actions should concentrate in Sections 19, 20, 21, 28, 29 and 30 in Township 23S, Range 31E. These sections are located in the western portion of this FUDS and encompass all known ranges and suspected bombing areas. Two major highways have been constructed within this portion of Pinecastle Jeep Range and no evidence of OE was ever uncovered

b. There are known Federally-and State- listed species occurring in the site area. An on-site inspection by appropriate State and Federal personnel may be necessary to verify the presence, absence or location of listed species, or natural communities.

9. SUMMARY SCHEDULE: EE/CA

10. FUNDING/BUDGET SUMMARY: For Official Use Only